



Representative Dan Roach



2005 Mid-Session Report and Survey

Representative Dan Roach

31st District
State Representative

Committees:

Financial Institutions
and Insurance
(Ranking Republican)

Capital Budget

Finance

Olympia:

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1-800-635-9993

Dear friends and neighbors,

We have now passed the halfway mark of the scheduled 105-day regular session in Olympia. Many challenges remain before us, including balancing the state's biennial budget.

As a long-time member of the House Finance Committee, I am concerned about government's insatiable appetite to spend more of your tax dollars. Taxes are already too high, government spends too much, and all it does is add to a bloated state bureaucracy which intrudes more into our lives. We need to begin protecting the taxpayers, not the tax spenders.

One of my top goals this session is to work for a **balanced budget with no new taxes**.

We also need policies that will stimulate our economy, foster a competitive economic climate, and **create jobs** in the private sector. Our quality of life in the state of Washington depends on it. I am working on legislation that would increase small business tax credits, reform our expensive workers' compensation system, and providing regulatory relief to help get government off the backs of working people.

We also need to make sure that families and individuals have **access to affordable health care** options that fit their needs. That includes a freeze on costly health insurance mandates and providing more insurance options for employers and their employees.

Finally, we need to **restore confidence** in our election system. I have introduced legislation to eliminate provisional ballots. Provisional ballots are given to voters whose names don't show up on the registration roles, often because they have moved from another precinct, and sometimes because they are not registered voters. I am also supporting other reforms that will bring back integrity and ensure free, fair, unbiased elections.

This newsletter provides a brief look of the issues before us in the remaining days of the 2005 legislative session. Also, please take a moment after browsing the newsletter to complete and return the survey on the back page. Your views will help me to be most effective when making decisions on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Rep. Dan Roach

About your representative

Currently serving his third term, Rep. Dan Roach, R-Bonney Lake, was elected to the House of Representatives in 2001. If you would like to learn more about Rep. Roach, visit his website at:

<http://hrc.leg.wa.gov/members/roach.htm>

Please make your voice heard at our 31st District town hall meetings!

Join me, Sen. Pam Roach and Rep. Jan Shabro at our upcoming town hall meetings. Bring your comments, questions and ideas for open discussion. This is an opportunity to become informed and to inform us about issues affecting our neighborhoods.

Two dates and locations:

Thursday, March 17
7 p.m.

Bonney Lake Senior Center
19304 Bonney Lake Blvd.
Bonney Lake, WA (Pierce County)

Saturday, March 19
10:30 a.m.

Enumclaw Public Library
1700 1st Street
Enumclaw, WA (King County)

Standing firm for a no-new-taxes budget

The newspapers continue to report that the state has a \$2 billion deficit. What you may not have read, however, is that the state actually has \$2 billion more to spend this year than in the last two-year budget cycle. In reality, the so-called “deficit” is the amount of money government wants to spend in the next two years, over and above the increased revenue already coming in to the state.

Before he left office, Gov. Locke proposed increasing the state’s two-year budget from \$23 billion to \$26 billion, a giant \$3 billion increase in spending. Those who control the Legislature are using that budget as a benchmark to write a new one. They have indicated it will include tax increases.

Increasing taxes at a time when our state is just beginning to recover from a recession is the wrong direction. Instead, we need to make government live within its means. That includes adopting a no-new-taxes budget, restoring the state’s spending limit law, requiring performance audits of state agencies, and creating a “rainy day” fund within the state constitution to protect against future tax increases and economic downturns. I will continue to stand with the taxpayers and fight for these reforms.

Death tax dead — A victory for taxpayers!

For the past two years, I’ve sponsored legislation to repeal what many call the state’s “death tax.” Although the estate tax was repealed by the federal government in 2001, the state of Washington continued to collect it.

I was working to get a hearing on my measure (House Bill 1411) when the Washington Supreme Court announced some good news. The court ruled that the state should not have collected this tax after it was repealed by Congress. The ruling was retroactive to 2002, meaning the state will be required to issue



**Rep. Dan Roach discusses legislation with
Rep. Jim McCune, R-Graham**

\$152 million in refunds to taxpayers who paid estate taxes to the state when no federal tax was due.

Although it is a big victory for taxpayers, Congress

only repealed this tax for 10 years. I’ve introduced a memorial asking Congress to make the repeal on the death tax permanent. Let’s put the last nail in the coffin on this tax and bury it for good!

Give voice to rural landowners

It was one of the biggest government land grabs in the history of King and Pierce counties — the adoption of critical area ordinances (CAOs) last fall that restrict rural landowners from using up to 65 percent of their property. It is nothing short of stealing from the people who are the rightful owners.

In response, I introduced several measures to provide relief. One bill would make CAOs subject to a citizen referendum. Another measure would require that where CAOs would affect 100 or more acres, a referendum must be passed before the rules take effect. A third would require government to provide compensation to landowners based on the projected loss of value due to Critical Area Ordinances. My fourth bill would require assessment reductions of taxable property impacted by CAOs.

Although the chairman of the committee where these bills were referred has refused to give them a hearing, I will not give up on this fight to protect rural landowners and give them a voice in the process. I’ve asked that we bring this issue to the table and get it solved.



Education bill proposed

Keep your eyes on House Bill 2152. That’s my financial literacy bill. It would encourage schools to teach students about proper use of credit, balancing checkbooks and handling money — skills currently not taught in schools. This would not be a mandate, but an option. We have a commitment from the private sector which will provide funding of \$50,000.

Giving new small businesses a head start

One of my priorities this session is to work for policies that create more jobs in the private sector. Small businesses provide the majority of jobs in our district and that’s the best place to create new ones.

The toughest period of time for a new small business to succeed is during its first years of operation. So that is why I have sponsored House Bill 1676, a measure that would exempt newly-created businesses with up to 25 employees from paying business and occupation taxes during their first two years of operation. Between the second and fifth year of operations, the firm would pay a slightly higher percentage of B&O taxes. After the fifth year, the full tax would kick in. The exemption would not apply to businesses grossing more than \$100,000. This proposal would give new small businesses the tax relief they need, allowing them time to grow, expand, and create jobs.

2005 Legislative Survey

Please take a moment to fill out this survey. When you are done, clip it from the rest of the newsletter, fold and mail it back with the mail panel (the one with our address in the middle) showing. Thank you in advance for your participation.

PRIORITIES

Rank these issues according to importance, with “1” being most important, “2” being the next most important, and so on.

- _____economy and jobs

_____crime and security

_____health care
- _____taxes and spending

_____education

_____transportation
- _____land use/property rights

_____election reform

_____social services

BUDGET AND SPENDING

How should we balance the state’s budget?

- _____Increase taxes to meet government spending needs

_____Set priorities and hold the line against tax increases

_____A combination of spending cuts and tax increases

Should the Legislature reinstate spending limits?

- ☐ Yes

☐ No

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Would you support a law requiring government to provide compensation to landowners based on the projected loss of value due to Critical Area Ordinances?

- ☐ Yes

☐ No

ELECTIONS

Which proposals would you support to reform our election process?

- ☐ Support

☐ Do not support

Require proof of citizenship/identification to vote
- ☐ Support

☐ Do not support

Require all voters to re-register
- ☐ Support

☐ Do not support

Eliminate provisional ballots
- ☐ Support

☐ Do not support

Move the Primary Election date to August (currently held in September) to allow adequate time for General Election ballots to be mailed earlier

|||||

Representative Dan Roach

P.O. Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Please place stamp here



HEALTH CARE

Which approach do you support to address our state's health care crisis?

- _____ Expand government-run health care by making employers either provide health insurance coverage or be taxed a fee to put employees on health care operated by state government. (Also known as "socialized medicine" or "Play or Pay.")
- _____ Implement cost-containment measures (such as mandate freezes, small group insurance reforms to provide more coverage options and medical malpractice insurance reforms with reasonable caps).

JOBS and ECONOMY

Which ideas would you support as a way to create jobs, retain existing businesses and attract new ones?

- ☐ Support ☐ Do not support Increase tax credits and exemptions for small businesses.
- ☐ Support ☐ Do not support Limit authority of state agencies to make regulations and require the governor's signature on all new agency rules for them to become effective.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

If there are other issues or concerns you would like to share with me, please include them in the following lines. Remember, together we can change how government does business.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Which category best describes you? (Optional)

- Age: ☐ 18 - 25 ☐ New resident of
 ☐ 26 - 35 31st District
 ☐ 36 - 45 (*within past year*)
 ☐ 46 - 55
 ☐ 55 - 59
 ☐ 60 and above

Would you like more information?

If you would like periodic updates on legislative issues, please fill out this section. Be sure to include your e-mail address if you would like to receive updates via e-mail.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____